



State of Wisconsin  
Governor Scott Walker

---

**Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection**  
Ben Brancel, Secretary

December 10, 2012

Dear Owners of Farm-Raised Deer Enrolled in the WI CWD Herd Status Program:

Effective December 10, 2012, the USDA rules that establish a Herd Certification Program (HCP) for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in farm-raised or captive cervids in the United States go into effect. Under federal and Wisconsin rules, owners of cervids who choose to participate in the CWD Herd Certification Program will have to meet the following requirements:

**Age of testing deer for CWD:**

Each deer enrolled in the WI CWD Herd Status Program must be tested for CWD upon death (including by slaughter or hunt) at 12 months of age or older.

**Physical herd inventory:**

A complete physical herd inventory must be performed for all enrolled herds. A complete physical inventory must provide verification to reconcile all deer and two approved individual identifications with the records maintained by the owner.

The owner must present the entire herd for inspection where an accredited veterinarian can safely read all identifications on the animals.

The first complete physical herd inventory must be completed by December 31, 2015, and no later than every third year thereafter. The December 31, 2015, timeline allows deer farmers to correlate the physical inventory with the herd's cycle for tuberculosis testing, if desired.

**Animal identification:**

Each deer enrolled in the WI CWD Herd Status Program must have at least two forms of identification attached to the animal.

At least one must be an approved form of official individual identification. Current official identifications are a TB silver metal ear tag or an "840" ear tag.

The second, if not official individual identification, must be a unique identification for the individual deer within the herd.

*Agriculture generates \$59 billion for Wisconsin*

2811 Agriculture Drive • PO Box 8911 • Madison, WI 53708-8911 • [Wisconsin.gov](http://Wisconsin.gov)

An equal opportunity employer

Deer in herds currently enrolled or planning to enroll in the WI CWD Herd Status Program must have two forms of identification as follows:

- *Currently enrolled herds*: Two forms of identification must be applied as follows:
  - By December 31, 2015, to all deer that are 12 months of age or older
  - Effective December 10, 2012, to any live deer, regardless of age, that is moved from the herd.
- *Herds planning to enroll*: Effective December 10, 2012, any herds planning to enroll in the WI CWD Herd Status Program must have two forms of identification attached to each deer prior to enrollment.
- *Deer added to an enrolled herd*: Effective December 10, 2012, any deer added to a Wisconsin enrolled herd must have two forms of identification:
  - For natural additions, by 12 months of age.
  - For non-natural additions, by the date of entering the herd, regardless of age.

Effective December 10, 2012, once two forms of identification have been applied to a deer in the WI CWD Herd Status Program; both forms of identification must be reported on the annual herd census submitted to the department.

If you have any questions regarding these federal requirements, please contact me at 608-224-4886.

Sincerely,

Richard Bourie, DVM  
CWD Program Manager